

Happy 80th Birthday



Gladys Frazier

Visitors, volunteers, and staff members took time out from their Sight Center schedules March 3 to salute Gladys Frazier, head of the agency's special projects section, on her 80th birthday.

The surprise observance also marked completion of her 19th year of service here. She was presented with a dish garden and a birthday cake.

Although her birthday actually fell on Feb. 20, the occasion was timed to coincide with the March meeting of Happy Times, a group Mrs. Frazier has worked intimately with over the years, scheduling its program, preparing refreshments, and arranging transportation for those who attend.

Besides Happy Times, Mrs. Frazier also supervises the agency's annual Christmas card sales, and the reclamation and redistributing of donated eyeglasses. She formerly was in charge of the Family Night program and at one time served as supervisor of volunteers.



It was a bright, cold, snowy day in February when Mrs. Darlene Rose, right, who suffers from retinitis pigmentosa, ventured into the Starr Avenue/Main Street area in Toledo's east side with Mary Reiff, Sight Center orientation and mobility instructor, to practice using the Laser beam cane. The Laser cane emits different-sounding beeps to alert the blind traveler to different kinds of problems that lie ahead, around and overhead.

* * *

A surprise visitor at the annual Volunteer Awards Luncheon this year was "Seymour Safely", who may turn out to be a Sight Center mascot if this year's popularity is any yardstick. Here, Seymour hands a gift balloon to William Marti, president of the Center's Board of Trustees, with a reminder to "see safely" at all times.

Bequests

An alternative method to making a regular contribution to the charitable organization of your choice is to include that organization in your will. When planning for your family, why not also consider the people served by the Sight Center?

The planning of one's estate is a sober matter, and we are aware, of course, that one's family members ordinarily come first. But if your circumstances permit a bequest to the Sight Center, it could help to guarantee training, rehabilitation and employment of visually handicapped people



for generations to come.

Such bequests can take any of several forms, and can include assets other than cash. For more information, contact Barry McEwen, Executive Director of the Sight Center, 241-1183.

Laser Cane

New Interns

Two University of Toledo senior students joined the Sight Center staff as interns in late March.

Sheree Lloyd, Stryker, O., and Kelly Eastman, Monroeville, O., both majors in social work, will earn 12 hours of academic credit apiece during their 11-week internship.

Both will work in a variety of programs related to blind and visually-impaired people, but each also will have a special project.

Miss Eastman's project will involve close work with blind youths of high school age at DeVilbiss High School. Miss Lloyd's will be a "phone outreach" project featuring area-wide telephone conferences among blind persons, including a significant proportion of elderly people.

The Toledo Society For The Blind

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the SIGHT CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind

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Singled out for special recognition at the annual Volunteer Awards luncheon in March were these three veteran volunteers, Jackie Sobecki, left; Jane Hilkert, center, and Nancy Burton.

Jane Hilkert Named Volunteer of Year

For the second time in three years, Mrs. Jane Hilkert has been honored as the Sight Center's "Volunteer of the Year" for having given more hours of service, 785, last year than any other.

She and the Center's other volunteers were honored at the annual recognition luncheon March 17 in the auditorium. Mrs. Hilkert, who began her volunteer work here in 1978, also was chosen "Volunteer of the Year" in 1979.

Mrs. Nancy Burton, with 440 hours, and Mrs. Jackie Sobecki, with 404, were honored as 1981 runners-up. Mrs. Sobecki was the 1980 honoree.

Approximately 300 volunteers contributed their time and skills to Sight Center functions last year, according to Madge Levinson, volunteer coordinator. About 80 were on hand for the luncheon.

Volunteer workers have emerged as a

potent force in the functioning of America's social service agencies, they were advised by Isabel F. Martin, consultant to the metropolitan division for United

Flexibility, Adaptation Are Rehabilitation Watchwords

profit agency that serves the needs of blind and visually impaired people. Among its many services is rehabilitation teaching.

Rehabilitation teaching provides professional instruction in adaptive living techniques in all areas of daily activity. These include personal management (eating techniques, personal grooming, money management); communication (dialing the phone, telling time, writing); home management (cleaning, cooking, laundry); and leisure activities (crafts, sports, involvement in the community). (Continued p. 2)



With the aid of a signature guide, Ann Hess, who has been blind since birth, practices signing her name under the coaching of Gail Shefield, Sight Center rehabilitation teacher. Miss Hess uses the jumbo-print alphabet (with raised letters) visible in the foreground to memorize the alphabet to facilitate use of the Optacon machine on the left.



May, 1982

Facing Reality: The Fat Has Already Been Trimmed

Despite a dollar shortfall that surpassed \$100,000 by year's end, the Sight Center—with the indispensable aid of hundreds of volunteer workers—rang up an impressive record in 1981.

Many of those achievements have already been chronicled in the press, but two, we think, bear special mention:

Our Prevention of Blindness Program, which promises to preserve the sight of hundreds, even thousands, of potentially-blind people in the years ahead, was put on a full-time footing, and will be expanded greatly this year.

Our Sheltered Workshop, 98 percent of the labor in which is performed by blind employees—a statistic which may be a nationwide high—was finally organized on a self-sustaining basis (given a suitable business climate), a long-overdue move which should help greatly to reduce our dollar drain.

Hopefully, 1982 will see many additional improvements in our operations. But our task will become impossible without greater public awareness of the problems we face, and a more sympathetic response.

Blindness and visual impairment are not going to go away. Although much has been done, a great deal more awaits doing; it is our role in the world-wide fight against blindness to assist those who have lost their sight in learning to cope with that loss, to adapt to living in a dark or fuzzy world without sacrificing independence, dignity, or material and spiritual comfort.

We cannot do that without an adequate staff of trained, dedicated professionals who must be paid respectable salaries, and who must have first-rate equipment and facilities to work with.

As they are fond of saying in Washington nowadays, we must look to the private sector for help. That, of course, is where the Sight Center has always obtained its funding, but now, with the Reagan administration eliminating more and more social service programs that were supported with tax monies in years past, we are forced to compete even more strenuously for such money.

We can, and will, limp along if we must. But it hurts; some needs already are being neglected, as services are inevitably postponed. At the beginning of 1982, it was necessary, in order to live within our budget, to abolish the jobs of five full-time and two part-time employees. It hurt them, and it hurt the people we serve. Happily, two of the full-time positions have been partially restored, but the outlook is not rosy. It will require our best effort, and the generous support of those who are in a position to help, if we are to maintain a level and quality of service commensurate with existing needs.

William A. Marti
President
Board of Trustees

Flexibility, Adaptation . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Gail Sheffield, rehabilitation teacher at the Sight Center, explained:

"We try to focus on the immediate needs of the visually impaired person. Then we try to meet those needs with an immediate success task, which might be pouring a glass of milk, lighting a cigarette, or writing a signature."

If a more complex training program is warranted, the need is discussed with the client; together, we set up a program to reach that person's long-term goals."

Because the Sight Center draws on different funding sources, including individual donations, the service is provided free, or at a modest cost.



William A. Marti

Second Air-Puff Tonometer to Double Glaucoma Screenings

The acquisition of a second air-puff tonometer last February is expected to bring a doubling of Sight Center efforts in its glaucoma screening program before 1982 is out.

Purchase of the new tonometer was made possible through the gift of an anonymous donor, said Barry McEwen, executive director.

Manned by a team of volunteers who have been practicing in its use for several months, the new one was placed into service March 5, 1982 at Southwyck Mall.

Last year, with a single tonometer, 4,923 adults in the 35-and-up group were given free glaucoma screenings by Sight Center personnel and volunteers, according to Mrs. Pat Knell, prevention of blindness coordinator.

Of that number, 347, or about seven percent, were found to have internal eye pressures sufficiently high to warrant immediate referral to their private eye doctors for follow-up care, she added.

"So far as we know, none of these people were aware they were in danger of losing their sight from glaucoma," she said.

"That's all the justification anyone should need for expanding the scope of this program."



These three volunteers teamed up in February to practice their glaucoma screening technique on the Sight Center's newest air-puff tonometer, "Windy". Mrs. Sharon Walker, left, obliged by staring at the red dot while Ralph Young, seated at the controls, zeroed in for a reading. Mr. Young and Bob Burk, standing, are two of several Champion Spark Plug retirees who have been practicing for several months in the use of the non-contact tonometer. The new one joins "Puff", the Center's first such device, in the Sight Center's accelerated Prevention of Blindness program.

On Becoming Blind . . .

I am one of many people in our country suffering from low vision. I have been asked to share with you my experience of handicapped low vision.

It was very difficult for me because one minute I had my sight and the next minute I had lost most of it. There was no warning! My left eye has been a lazy eye since birth . . . and now I have lost my sight in my right eye because of a virus which left a macular scar in the middle of my retina.

My first reaction was that it was only temporary and soon those things that I took for granted (driving the car, reading the newspaper, watching a clear picture on television, being independent with a good job) would soon return. Well, they didn't return, and then I began to ask why God would let this happen to me. Some day I'm sure I will know the answer. I have learned after two years of being non-productive that one does not help himself or family and friends by standing idle in the security of your home.

During those two years I learned to live around my low vision with the help of the Sight Center. I do not think any of us can accept a handicap of this nature or any other handicap that takes away a way of life that one is used to.

It was very difficult at first to go out in public. I was always afraid that someone at the store or on the street would see me and I would not be able to acknowledge them back.

The hardest thing for me is not being able to drive my car. This has hurt me very much because it was my livelihood. I was a marketing representative for a dental laboratory and I had always enjoyed driving the car with my family on vacations, etc. Now I must depend on my wife and friends for transportation. It was not only difficult but demeaning to me.

I went on disability from work and I could not ever think of going back and facing my friends at work. All I wanted to do was to stay at home for the rest of my life. I have kept busy caring for our little baby son, getting our 11-year-old daughter off to school each day, household chores, and taking care of the lawn.

After being withdrawn inside myself and many, many emotional breakdowns, I was made aware by my doctor of the Sight Center organization in Toledo. These people (Gail Sheffield, Ginger Martin, both rehabilitation instructors; and Mary Reiff, the mobility instructor; also, all the people at the Sight Center with vision problems) took me by the hand and showed me that all is not lost, and they gave me the confidence I needed to get both feet back firmly on the ground. They are, in my opinion, very badly needed in our society. They are giving of their learned skills of helping low vision and blind people to live as near a normal life as possible. To me, they radiated the confidence I needed, and I could not help but to soak up that confidence within myself.

Their help and guidance has got me back into the outside world. I no longer dread going shopping or walking down the street on my own. I even tried to drive the car, after purchase of low vision eyeglasses, but I have since realized this is not a reality, and I have learned to take the bus when on my own.

My reason for writing to you is to let the people with normal vision know that this is truly a reality. This kind of handicap can happen to any of us. It is very easy to forget these people, but they never forget it. It is there 24 hours a day.

An organization such as the Sight Center gives us the courage to go on.

And to the people with vision handicaps, you know what? I'm going back to work this week and I'm looking forward to it. Sure I have questions about my future, but it's me who will decide the outcome, not my fears . . .

If my story helps just one of you to regain your self-esteem and confidence within, it has served its purpose

Ron Vogelpohl
Jan. 18, 1982

Ron Vogelpohl is a 38-year-old Toledoan who was a successful marketing executive before unexpectedly losing his sight two years ago.

The blindness that can result from amblyopia (lazy eye) is needless and avoidable. When discovered before the child reaches the age of 5 or 6, the lazy eye can be taught in most cases to function as well as the other eye, thus providing binocular vision.

* * *



The Sign Post

In early March, the Sight Center initiated a weekly one-hour broadcast of matters of interest to blind or visually impaired people, using the facilities of WAMP-FM (88.3 meg.) at Toledo Scott High School's student station. Tune in at 6:30 p.m. Fridays to stay abreast of medical or technological news relating to sight, plus features, interviews, and news of visually impaired people in the worlds of art and sports.

* * *

We congratulate Dr. Ruth Lindecker on her appointment as Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University of Toledo.

Dr. Lindecker, whose sight loss is now total, was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree at UT in August, 1981. Her dissertation, *Comparison of Braille and Optacon Reading Comprehension in Blind Public School Students*, is available on microfilm through the University of Michigan Library. It is also on file in the UT library, and at the Ohio Department of Education, Columbus.

* * *

Two blue ribbons for a crocheted pillow, and a red ribbon for a crocheted afghan, were awarded to Florence Henry of the Sight Center's sheltered workshop force, for her entries in the Pemberville, O., Fair last fall.

* * *

A weekend camp for blind and visually impaired children of preschool age is scheduled for June 11-13 at Hemlock Lake, Reading, Michigan. Place reservations by calling the Sight Center, 241-1183.

* * *

Adult camp for seniors (55 and over) will be held Sept. 10-12, also at Hemlock Lake.

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October 15, 1982, has been designated National White Cane Day.

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THE TOLEDO SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
Statements of Support, Revenue and Expenses
Years ended December 31, 1981 and 1980

| | 1981 | 1980 |
|--|-------------------|----------------|
| Support and revenue: | | |
| Public contributions | \$ 86,368 | 105,369 |
| Bequests | 26,165 | 20,340 |
| Memorials | 4,196 | 3,036 |
| Greater Toledo Community Chest | 155,000 | 140,000 |
| Fees and grants from governmental agencies | 51,287 | 13,792 |
| Sales of services | 294,411 | 275,318 |
| Investment income | 38,706 | 32,244 |
| Oil royalty income | 45,706 | 24,755 |
| Christmas card program, net of related costs | 5,728 | 4,123 |
| Other | 6,816 | 5,952 |
| Total support and revenue | <u>714,383</u> | <u>624,929</u> |
| Expenses: | | |
| Program services: | | |
| Aids and appliances | 36,877 | 35,826 |
| Rehabilitation | 198,612 | 151,062 |
| Sight conservation | 29,210 | 22,739 |
| Sheltered workshop | 292,390 | 339,442 |
| Supporting services: | | |
| Fund raising | 57,328 | 27,180 |
| Volunteers | 24,798 | 25,184 |
| General and administrative | 181,526 | 156,180 |
| Total expenses | <u>820,741</u> | <u>757,613</u> |
| Excess of expenses over support and revenue | <u>\$ 106,358</u> | <u>132,684</u> |

The above presents the support, revenue and expenses of all funds of The Toledo Society for the Blind which include the Current Unrestricted and Restricted Funds, the Land, Building and Equipment Fund and the Industrial Fund.



Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.

The Board of Trustees
The Toledo Society for the Blind:

We have examined the statements of support, revenue and expenses of The Toledo Society for the Blind for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 1981. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned statements of support, revenue and expenses present fairly the results of operations of The Toledo Society for the Blind for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 1981 in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Toledo, Ohio
February 26, 1982

Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.



Two Sight Center Patrons Recognized For Contributions

Two veteran members of the Sight Center's board of directors, John Goerlich and Thomas R. Day, were honored recently for long service to blind and visually impaired people.

Mr. Goerlich, known in the business community as founder of AP Parts Corp., served as president of the Center's board of directors for 21 years and now holds the special position of chairman of that body.

By special resolution of his fellow board members, he was accorded the title of "Outstanding Member".

The document details his contributions to the blind community in the forms of personal service, money, real estate, vehicles, and particularly his leadership and foresight in guiding the policies of the Sight Center.

Mr. Day, who is vice-president of Willis Day Moving & Storage Co., has been a member of the Center's board of directors for 28 years, and currently is vice-president of that body. He was honored by the Toledo Host Lions Club, which chose him to receive the prestigious A. B. Snyder Award.

The award also cited his efforts on behalf of the Sunshine Children's Home, a facility for children with severe mental retardation.



John Goerlich Thomas Day

The award is given annually to recognize outstanding service to humanity in a manner that reflects the best principles of Lionism.

Special mention was made of the many years during which Mr. Day has arranged transportation for blind people to monthly and special meetings—Happy Times, Progressive Club, Family Night, and others—as well as to the Lions Annual Christmas Party for the Blind.

The award also cited his efforts on behalf of the Sunshine Children's Home, a facility for children with severe mental retardation.

For Those Who Wondered . . .

Eleven interns have provided valuable services at the Sight Center over the past three years while gaining professional experience and/or college credits. Numerous inquiries from clients concerning the activities and whereabouts of these interns prompted us last month to look them up. Here's what we found:

Jerry Raistrick, MA, rehabilitation teacher from Sept.-Dec. 1979, is now a rehabilitation teacher for the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, Aurora, Ill.

Becky Beckstein, social worker, June-Dec. 1979, is not currently employed. She lives in Bowling Green, Oh.

Valerie Diaz, MSW, social worker, Jan.-May and Sept.-Dec. 1980, completed work on her master's degree at the University of Michigan in April, 1981, and now lives in Corvallis, Oregon, where she is seeking employment.

Sue Ott, rehabilitation teacher, Oct.-Dec. 1980, lives in Cleveland, Oh., and is also job-hunting.

Robin Russell, public information specialist, March-June 1980, is associate editor of the Waynesfield, Oh., *Journal*, a weekly newspaper in Auglaize County.

Mary Skerl, rehabilitation teacher, March-June 1980, is a rehabilitation teacher for the South Dakota Department of Rehabilitation, Aberdeen, S. Dak.

Susan Peters, rehabilitation teacher, Jan.-March 1981, is a rehabilitation worker for the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Anita Zollinger, social worker, Jan.-March 1981, is now Mrs. Daniel Pope. She and her husband were married Sept. 26, 1981, and now make their home in Marshallville, Oh.

Don Billie, rehabilitation teacher, March-June 1981, received a bachelor of arts degree in social service from Cleveland State University last June and has returned there to work toward a master's degree in business administration.

Susie Goldman, rehabilitation teacher, June-Aug. 1981, lives in University Heights, Oh., and is a rehabilitation teacher at the Center for the Visually Impaired, Inc., Elyria, Oh.

Willie Moskowitz, rehabilitation teacher, Oct. 81-Feb. 82, lives in University Heights, Oh., and is seeking employment.

Retinitis Pigmentosa Group



Present on behalf of the Sight Center at the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Conference in Baltimore, Md., last November were Dawn Christensen, left; Vicki Obee, social worker and the only sighted member of the local group making the trip; Irene Boughton and Helen Heinz. Mrs. Christensen, who is one of the Center's two part-time receptionists, is an RP victim, as is Mrs. Boughton. Mrs. Heinz suffers from macular degeneration. Also making the trip was Barbara Morales, of Bellevue, an RP victim.

The Conference marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the RP Foundation. Among other news, the conferees learned that a computerized, nationwide registry of RP victims has been developed as an aid to those who might wish to trace family histories of the condition.